

ENTOMOLOGY.—A new species of *Meropleon Dyar* from South Carolina (*Lepidoptera: Noctuidae*). E. L. TODD, Entomology Research Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture. (Communicated by A. B. Gurney.)

Two male specimens of a new species of *Meropleon* Dyar were recently discovered among specimens submitted for identification by Frances McAlister of Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, S. C. The species is named and described as follows:

***Meropleon titan*, n. sp.**

Proboscis somewhat abortive, coiled, well hidden by the labial palpi; palpi slightly upturned, reaching to about the middle of front, ventral margin of first and second segments fringed with loose hairlike scales, third segment small, clothed with appressed scales; front smooth, only slightly produced; eyes large, rounded; ocelli present, small; antennae bipectinate, gradually becoming simple at about apical one-fifth, the pectinations short, the pectinations of the inner margin longer than those of the external margin. Tegulae with outer margin clothed with black hairlike scales, a median spot of black-tipped scales at apical one-fourth. Vestiture of thorax mostly of long scales, many black-tipped, some tufts of long hairlike scales from above bases of hind wings. Abdomen rubbed (other species of the genus have a series of dorsal crests near the base). Forewing broad, triangular, apex slightly rounded, outer margin weakly angulate at Cu_1 ; R_1 from near middle of cell, R_3 from R_2 anastomosing with R_{4+5} to form areole; R_3 and R_4 shortly stalked; M_1 from lower margin of areole; M_2 , M_3 and Cu_1 from near lower angle of cell, M_2 converging toward M_3 basally; Cu_2 from apical one-fourth of cell; upper discocellular absent. Hind wings with $Sc + R_1$ adnate with cell near base; Rs and M_1 shortly stalked from upper angle of cell; M_2 obsolescent, from well above lower angle of cell; M_3 and Cu_1 connate at lower angle of cell.

Forewing cinereous with rufous and fuscous scaling in the basal, medial and subterminal area; subbasal line represented by a short black mark at costa; antemedial band indistinct except between anal vein and inner margin; postmedial band vague, limited basally and distally by a series of patches of dark scales between the veins, the median portion cinereous except between Cu_2 and the anal vein where it is white; subterminal line irregular, pale, bordered inwardly by some rufous spots, those nearer the inner margin the most heavily marked; terminal line of weak black crescents; fringe of dark-tipped scales, but narrowly white at veins; a dark, triangular spot extending inwardly from termen in area of the branches of the medial vein and another dark patch on the costa shortly basad of apex; reni-

form moderate, vague, mostly of pale, cinereous scales; orbicular large, oblique, outlined with black except open toward costa, central portion white; the area between the reniform and orbicular black; a black basal dash present, extending to antemedial band, followed distally by a heavy, black median bar. Hind wing lightly

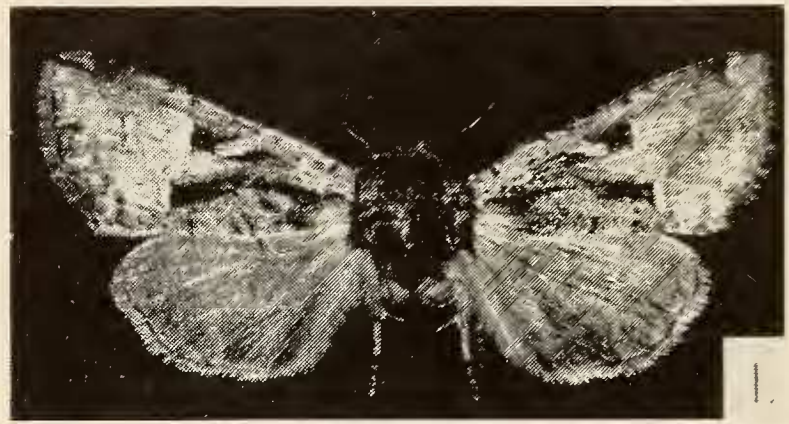


FIG. 1.—Type, male, *Meropleon titan*, n. sp. (1.5 × natural size.)

suffused with fuscous; terminal line black; fringe of dark-tipped scales, but paler than fringe of forewing. Undersurface of forewing dark grey, cell appearing darker due to a patch of dark hairs. Hind wing below, whitish, weakly flecked with fuscous scales; a moderate, black discal spot present. Length of forewing, 19 mm.

Male genitalia similar to those of *Meropleon diversicolor* (Morrison) but larger and aedeagus distinct. Aedeagus with two spatulate lobes from the aedeagal shaft and a third lobe on the vesica (see Fig. 2). In *diversicolor* the aedeagus has but one external spatulate lobe.

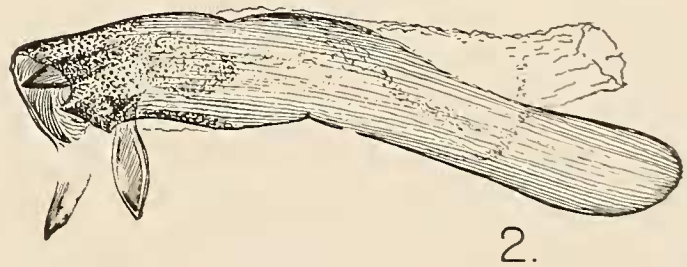


FIG. 2.—Lateral view of aedeagus of *Meropleon titan*, n. sp. (13.5 × natural size.)

Type, male, Clemson, S. C., October 7, 1956, Frances McAlister, in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. Type number 63458. One male paratype, Clemson, S. C., September 19, 1957, Frances McAlister in the collection of the Department of Entomology, Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, S. C.

This species is obviously related to *M. diversicolor* (Morr.) but is readily separated by the larger size, the presence of a black basal dash in the anal fold of the forewing, the asymmetrically bipectinate antennae of the male and the distinctive aedeagus of the male.